



LATE

Testimony Before The
Senate Committee on Ways & means
IN SUPPORT OF SB 3048 SD 1

Thursday, February 28, 2018, 11:00AM, Room 211

My name is Kevin Chang and I am the Executive Director of Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (or KUA). KUA works to empower grassroots rural and Native Hawaiian mālama 'āina groups to celebrate their places and pass on their traditions to better Hawai'i and achieve 'āina momona— an abundant, productive ecological system that supports community well-being.

KUA supports SB 3048 SD1 as an incremental step towards 'āina momona. This bill would appropriate a sum of at least \$500,928.00 to support the efforts of the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement (DOCARE) to develop an academy to train enforcement officers specifically on the subject of natural resource protection. This is a step toward better protection of Hawai'i's natural and cultural heritage for our collective well- being.

KUA employs a community-driven approach that currently supports a network of more than 31 mālama 'āina community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together), 40 fishpond projects and practitioners called the Hui Mālama Loko I'a, and a new and growing hui of Limu practitioners all from across our state. Members of these networks and future generations need a more resourced DOCARE. Indeed some of these communities today partner with DOCARE through growing community based co-management initiatives on our ahupua'a, shorelines and wahi pana (celebrated places).

Communities in the networks we facilitate focus on improved natural resource management and restoration of native food and ecological systems, values and ethics more sensitive to the needs of their wahi (their places). Quite often the issues they work to advance require real DLNR presence on the land and nearshores at varied hours of the day. Further, they require a different focus, sensitivity and approach to community and place than just the experience of typical law enforcement. Development of an academy is a step towards diversification of the pool of candidates most interested in the field because of their interest in enforcing, furthering and understanding the unique values and resources of communities and their place.

The communities we work with are committed to ensuring the long-term health of our cultural and natural resources because they have depended on them for generations. We believe our environment is about long term investment and vision. We believe the vision of 'āina momona which our communities hold, includes a properly resourced DOCARE. Passing this bill out of your committee would help to go a long way toward reaching this goal.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support.

Aloha 'Āina Momona.

LATE

SB-3048-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 5:22:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Makaala Kaaumoana	Testifying for Hanalei Watershed Hui	Support	No

Comments:

Our organization works closely with the Kauai DOCARE office and strongly supports this bill.

Makaala Kaaumoana